Development of Ambli Road station

†4104. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for the development of Ambli Road station located on Ahmedabad-Viramgam line; and

(a) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no work proposed/ sanctioned for development of Ambli Road station.

(b) Does not arise.

Handicapped PCO operators

4105. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has scrapped ten thousand jobs of handicapped PCO operators on various platforms in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for scraping their contracts; and

(c) whether his Ministry intend to employ these persons in any other capacity to enable them and their families to survive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Special trains between Trivendrum and Bangalore

4106. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number and details of the special trains being run between Trivendrum and Bangalore during this summer;

(b) whether the traffic in the above route justifies running of an additional daily train; and

(c) if so, the action Government proposed to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A total no. of 192 special trains (trips) are planned for summer between Bangalore and Trivendrum/Ernakulam as against 142 specials (trips) run during last summer. Of the 192 specials, 55 specials have been run during April, 2007.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to increase the frequency of 6315/6316 Kochuveli-Bangalore Express from weekly to tri-weekly during 2007-2008.

Revamping catering system

4107. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revamp the whole catering system of Indian Railways to improve the quality of food served;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the long distance trains taking more than 24 hours to reach the destination have no pantry cars at present;

(d) if so, the details of such trains; and

(e) whether Government are considering a proposal to add pantry cars in such trains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As an ongoing process, catering services of Indian Railways receive constant attention of the zonal railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), which is a wholly owned company of Indian Railways formed to upgrade and professionalise the catering and hospitality services of Indian Railways IRCTC is in the process of setting up of Multi-Cuisine Food Plaza, Automatic Vending Machines,